



The Right Honourable Boris Johnson
10 Downing Street
London

**The Economic Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic:
Inclusion of Self-Employed Translators and Interpreters in Government Support Measures**

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) in the UK and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI), which together represent over 3,000 language professionals.

Translators and interpreters ensure that multilingual communication flows smoothly, oiling the wheels of business deals, parliamentary, ministerial and diplomatic discussions, cultural exchanges, medical conferences and trade agreements. Now, however, the health crisis is posing a serious threat to their professional livelihoods.

For interpreters, the coronavirus outbreak has led to the cancellation, almost overnight, of virtually all face-to-face meetings, conferences and trade fairs both in the UK and in the other European countries where UK-based interpreters work. Meanwhile, for translators, in many cases work has dried up overnight as companies have put their plans for the coming months on hold. The ongoing uncertainty will extend into the summer, leaving interpreters and translators in a very precarious financial situation.

On behalf of our members we would like to appeal to you to include freelance translators and interpreters in Government support measures to mitigate the adverse economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The announced measures, whilst very welcome, fail to provide the direct financial support that the self-employed need.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you require further information about the consequences for our members, including more detailed data to complement the information collected from other event industry stakeholders.

Most respectfully,

Monika Kokoszycska
Chair, AIIC UK & Ireland

Paul Appleyard
Chair, ITI

Copies to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy